

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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UNCLAS CAIRO 1360

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP (ERLENBORN, JOHN N.)

REF: STATE 5262, USIA 679, USIA 2747

1. SUMMARY: DURING VISIT TO CAIRO JANUARY 25-28 REP. JOHN ERLENBORN INQUIRED INTO EMBASSY GIZA PROPERTY EXCHANGE, RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN SUEZ CANAL AREA AND THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION IN GENERAL. WHILE HERE HE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN TWO USIS-SPONSORED PROGRAMS, THE FIRST AT MFA'S DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE, THE SECOND WITH A GROUP OF EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS. HIS PARTICIPATION WAS EFFECTIVE IN EACH AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DAY FOLLOWING HIS EVENING ARRIVAL ERLENBORN VISITED THE SUEZ CANAL INCLUDING ISMAILIA, PORT TAWFIQ AND SUEZ CITY. IN LAST CITY HE INSPECTED ONE OF NEW 3000 UNIT HOUSING PROJECTS. HE WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY MASHOUR AHMED MASHOUR, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY, WHO BRIEFED HIM ON RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS, THE CLEARANCE OPERATION AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CANAL. REP. ERLENBORN ALSO VISITED CTF 65 AT ISMAILIA WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON U.S. NAVY ACTIVITIES IN CONNETION WITH SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST OF CONGRESSMAN, EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR PROVIDED HIM DETAILED BRIEFING ON GIZA PROPERTY EXCHANGE. HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT AND PHOTOGRAPH ALL BUT SUEZ CANAL PROPERTY. ERLENBORN ADVISED HE WOULD BE REPORTING DETAILS OF THE BRIEFING TO APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

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4. CONGRESSMAN BEGAN NEXT DAY IN CAIRO WITH BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR. HE THEN ADDRESSED FACULTY AND STAFF OF DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE. FOCUS WAS ON ROLE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN FORMULATION OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. LECTURE WAS FOLLOWED BY SOME THIRTY MINUTES OF DISCUSSION WITH STUDENTS COVERING VARIETY OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING U.S. POLICY TOWARD PEACE EFFORTS IN AREA. FOLLOWING ADDRESS ERLNBORN MET WITH GROUP OF EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO WILL BE VISITING USA UNDER CU GRANTS BEGINNING APRIL 25. CONVERSATION INCLUDED COMPARATIVE DISCUSSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE COURT SYSTEM OF EGYPT AND USA. FOLLOWING MEETING DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, DR. GAMAL OTEIFY, HOSTED LUNCHEON IN ERLNBORN'S HONOR.

5. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, ERLNBORN WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT DINNER HOSTED BY PAO WHICH INCLUDED DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT. SECOND DINNER, HOSTED BY DIRECTOR OF DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE, AMBASSADOR SABRY, BROUGHT TOGETHER SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND MFA.

6. REP. ERLNBORN WAS VERY EFFECTIVE BOTH IN USIS PROGRAMMING AND IN VARIETY OF OFFICIAL CONTACTS EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE. LEFT FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON ALL WHO MET HIM INCLUDING THOSE WHO ASKED TOUGH QUESTIONS AT THE DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE. HIS VISIT WAS DEFINITE PLUS IN EVERY RESPECT.
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